

12-05-05

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Dated: 12-2-05

Docket No.: 09482/100K920-US3
(PATENT)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:
Naoto Matsuda et al.

Application No.: 10/659,497

Confirmation No.: 3631

Filed: September 10, 2003

Art Unit: 3727

For: POUCH HAVING A BRANCHED CHAMBER Examiner: J. F. Pascua

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

MS Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

In response to the restriction requirement set forth in the Office Action mailed November 17, 2005, the Examiner has required restriction between:

Species I. Fig. 1;

Species II. Fig. 2;

Species III. Fig. 3;

Species IV. Fig. 4;

Species V. Fig. 5;

Species VI. Fig. 6;

Species VII. Fig. 7;

Species VIII. Fig. 8;

Species IX. Figs. 9 and 10;

Species X. Fig. 11;

- Species XI. Fig. 12;
- Species XII. Figs. 13-15;
- Species XIII. Figs. 16 and 17;
- Species XIV. Figs. 21-23;
- Species XVIII. Figs. 24(a) and (b);
- Species XIX. Figs. 25(a) and (b);
- Species XX. Figs. 26(a) and (b); and
- Species XXI. Figs. 27(a) and (b)

Applicants respectfully traverses the present election requirement on the basis that groups XII and XIII should be grouped together since they contain essentially the same construction of the pouch with the only difference being the location of the plug. Reconsideration of the groupings is earnestly solicited.

In the event that the Examiner is not willing to combine groups XII and XIII into one group, Applicants respectfully hereby provisionally elect Species XII, Figs. 13-15 for further prosecution on the merits. Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1-7, 21, 22, 25, 29, and 30 are readable on the elected Species (Group XII) and therefore, examination of these claims is in order.

Applicant hereby reserves the right to continue prosecution of the non-elected claims in a divisional application.

It is believed that the present communication is fully responsive to the outstanding Office Action.

An action on the merits of all the claims and a Notice of Allowance thereof are respectfully requested.

Dated: December 2, 2005

Respectfully submitted,

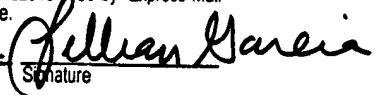
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EXPRESS MAIL CERTIFICATE

Date 12-2-05 Label No. FV692136683-US

I hereby certify that, on the date indicated above, this paper or
fee was deposited with the U.S. Postal Service & that it was
addressed for delivery to the Commissioner for Patents,
P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 by "Express Mail
Post Office to Addressee" service.

Lillian Garcia 
Name (Print) Signature